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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Albert F. Root, Commissioner

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Mitchell Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

FL-131



JANUARY 15, 1954

Employment Dips Slightly But Surpasses Year Ago

Decline of 1,400 in employment totals from November to December represented less than one percent of the total wage earners on Montana industrial payrolls, monthly estimates on employment issued by the Commission and the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate. As compared with December of a year before an increase of 300, or two-tenths of one percent, is noted.

Decline of Seasonal Nature

Estimates as of December 15 gave 157,400 on payrolls, a month before there were 158,800, and a year ago 157,100. Most of the decline from November figures was of seasonal nature in contract construction, lumber and logging, food processing, and transportation. From December, 1952, to December, 1953, substantial shrinkage of the forces engaged in the timber industry, in wholesale trade, general merchandise, and in restaurants, was reflected. This shrinkage was more than offset by employment gains in mining, construction, finance, and industrial services.

Stabilized on Moderate Trend

On a long-term view the Montana employment figures appear to have stabilized on a moderate trend, after a consistent uptrend maintained through 1952 and into the spring of 1953. Tabulation of the monthly changes in employment, over the same month a year before, from 1950 to 1953, is presented below.

	1953	1952	1951	1950
Jan.	9,500	—1,400	8,700	—3,900
Feb.	7,300	1,400	7,200	—3,300
Mar.	6,200	2,700	5,100	—2,500
Apr.	2,100	3,800	3,800	—1,900
May	800	5,600	2,100	0
June	200	5,800	500	2,600
July	500	7,600	—1,400	4,900
Aug.	200	6,100	—2,500	6,000
Sep.	—200	9,000	—2,500	7,000
Oct.	200	7,200	200	7,000
Nov.	2,200	4,900	1,000	4,600
Dec.	300	6,500	2,200	5,500
Av.	2,400	4,900	2,000	2,200

Recent Years Reflect Progress

The records show that in the last half of 1949, not given in accompanying tabulation, the employment was receding from the previous year's levels, a faltering economy which extended into May of 1950. Beginning with June the employment margin over the year before became positive and continued so far just about a year, when the upward climb was halted and averaged about even for the last half of 1951. In 1952 the first month shows a deficit, but each month after that a commanding margin in employment totals was maintained and the same trend continued through four months of 1953. The final eight months of 1953 were slightly better

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SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT DECLINES RAPIDLY AS INDUSTRIES APPROACH MIDWINTER LOW

Build-up of Montana's annual seasonal unemployment took on new momentum in late December, affected by widespread layoffs and reductions of force in industries and on projects vulnerable to unfavorable outdoor working conditions and by curtailment in secondary and tertiary lines which service such activities. By the turn of the year the number of jobseekers at offices of the employment service had zoomed from 5,000 the last of November to 8,000 the last of December. This was 400 more than a year ago, 1,200 more than in December, 1951, and only 400 behind the figure for 1950.

Expanding Labor Force Outstrips Job Openings

Continuation of the upward climb of seasonal unemployment is indicated by early January evidences. Volume of unemployment compensation claims rose during the first full week of 1954 by sixty percent and already represents a challenge to the record claim trend in 1950. It surpasses the beginning of 1953, 1952, 1951, and 1948, but is not up to the figures for 1949 and 1950. At the same time the number of wage earners on payrolls in the state remains slightly above that of a year ago and substantially greater than that of any previous year. The surplus of unemployment seems to arise in part from the normal increase in the total working force with which the number of job opportunities has not kept pace.

Further Layoffs Due in January

Further reductions in force are to occur in circles of trade and service as the inflated holiday period payrolls return to normal. Degree of this inflation is reported to have been less than usual, but will still furnish added numbers of persons seeking work and, in some cases, unemployment benefits. While most of the present unemployment is ascribed to seasonal influences, the timber industry has an element of uncertainty due to the weakened price structure and diminished demand for lumber and wood products. Employment recovery in that segment next spring may lag because of that factor.

Construction Well Up to Normal

Construction employment in December was well up to normal for that period, due to weather conditions favorable to its continuance, but is expected to decline in January and February. Larger projects, such as Tiber dam, erection of aluminum plant, pipeline from Billings to Spokane, and power units at Canyon Ferry and Kerr dam, are already approaching their minimum crews or have halted entirely for the season. In several areas building construction projects are reported as enclosed and finishing work will continue through the winter.

1,000 Men on Road Work

Employment on the state highway system in December was 50 above that of a year ago and only 100 short of the November crew strength. There were 300 men on contractor payrolls constructing 111 miles of highway, 10 bridges and one overpass; the maintenance crews aggregated 700 workers. December of 1952 had 750 on maintenance and 200 on contractor payrolls.

Big Backlog of Highway Jobs

Backlog of highway work for employment in the spring consists of 235 miles of highway contracts awarded but not in progress, 12 bridges and one overpass. A year ago there were 150 miles of road contract, two bridges and one overpass in the backlog. Only one highway contract, a small bridge job, reached completion in December.

Labor Supply Comparisons

Over a period of four years, the following compilation shows number of active applicants for work in representative months:

Active Job Applicants in Montana

	1953	1952	1951	1950
March	9,323	9,352	10,844	16,459
July	3,249	2,191	3,260	3,880
October	2,688	1,955	2,680	3,301
November	5,408	4,135	4,441	5,349
December	7,932	7,517	6,694	8,329

Seasonal Employment Nears Minimum

Food processing plants have released their seasonal employees and will be dormant so far as labor demands go until spring or summer. Railroads have called off extensive track maintenance and repair and are continuing only such limited forces as are essential to winter operation. Train operating crews and mechanics are also at normal low winter level. Farm labor demand is at rock-bottom, even the normal winter need for help in stock feeding is absent because open weather makes feeding unnecessary in many livestock areas.

Larger Cities Have Most Jobless

Heaviest concentrations of unemployed workers appear to be in Missoula, Kalispell, Great Falls, Billings, and Butte, in that order, ranging from 1,132 down to 688. Kalispell and Billings have fewer jobseekers now than a year ago, the decrease being 40 percent in Kalispell and eight percent in Billings, while Missoula is up 75 percent, Great Falls 70, and Butte 50. Other areas reporting substantial numbers of jobseekers are Helena, Polson, Glasgow, Miles City, Livingston, and Bozeman.

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Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Jan. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(128 jobseekers; 74 men, 54 women; 22 men and 15 women over 45) Labor demand continues to shrink along the seasonal pattern which is marked by virtual cessation of outdoor construction work, railroad improvement, and farm activities in the field. Smelter turnover is slight, also a seasonal characteristic. No change anticipated until March.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(910 jobseekers; 753 men, 157 women; 222 men and 44 women over 45) Employment situation slightly better in December than in same month a year ago but the end of the month saw extensive force reductions in wholesale and retail trade and layoff of most construction crews employed on outside work. Buildings already enclosed are furnishing employment to finishing crews. Coal mine employment is spotted, several mines operating on short week due to lack of orders, while others are mining full five days. Railroad crews have been reduced to minimum proportions.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(235 jobseekers; 193 men, 42 women; 3 over 45) Construction begun on new road project and on remodeling of commercial building, though most construction projects are at a low employment stage. Seasonal layoffs in most outside activities came later than a year ago. Lumber and logging crews are down to skeleton basis, until spring opens. Agricultural employment also at minimum level. About 50 seed sorters employed for winter at local plant. Cement plant on reduced schedule due to lack of orders, resumes about April 1. Contracts for two million dollars of buildings and roads ready for spring.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(688 jobseekers; 515 men, 173 women) The labor market was depressed all through December, a normal seasonal condition. Construction employment is still receding, with release of crews on small projects. Wholesale and retail trade will also add to the labor supply as holiday help is laid off. Unemployment is already 30 percent above year ago, as reflected in claims for unemployment benefits. About 15 transients a day, mostly from the west and southwest, and most of them seeking mining jobs, add to the surplus of labor. Mine jobs open, experience required, and housing scarce.

CITIBANK—(148 jobseekers; 105 men, 43 women; 43 over 45) Labor supply consists principally of unskilled workers from construction and oil production, and service industries, affected by seasonal curtailment of employment. Labor demand extremely light, below that of year ago. Oil well drilling and construction dormant until spring. Holiday employment demand below expectations with releases already begun.

DILLON—(61 jobseekers; 38 men, 23 women) New ore mill at Glen nearly completed, will be in operation in January. Adequate labor supply at hand. Highway contractor closed operations on ten mile project, releasing 20 men until spring. Labor supply for ranch purposes ample, some feeding of livestock begun at higher elevations.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(287 jobseekers; 243 men, 44 women; 46 men and 14 women over 45) Nearly all construction projects completed and crews laid off. A few carpenters retained on new elevator and on one building contract. Plumbing forces cut to minimum and housemoving crew laid off as that work is halted for the season. Labor demand light through December, most trade hiring done in November, with releases due in early January. Stock feeding is at a minimum, labor supply ample, hiring will be more active as winter supplants milder weather that has prevailed.

GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux—(71 jobseekers; 54 men, 17 women; 14 men and 4 women over 45) Most construction operations continue, but with greatly depleted crews as seasonal halt is anticipated. Hiring is at a minimum and most outside work has already ceased for the winter season. Oil operations continue but with fewer crews and less labor demand than a year ago. Pipeline project to Chicago assured, construction to start in spring. Increasing supply of transients adds to the already abundant labor supply.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,039 jobseekers; 801 men, 238 women; 234 men and 60 women over 45) Seasonal unemployment in construction, railroad, forestry and agriculture, along with heavy influx from adjoining areas, has produced an excessive labor supply here. Further layoffs in retail and wholesale trade after the holidays will augment the supply. One firm with 30 employed is closing out. Military increase of 1,000 at airbase expected during winter, will stimulate housing and construction demand. Considerable construction under way, maintaining last year's high employment level in that field.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(215 jobseekers; 198 men, 27 women; 63 men and 8 women over 45) Seasonal layoffs more general than a year ago, complicated by heavier return of local workers from the coast, Columbia Falls, Superior, and Missoula. One sawmill with crew of 12 closed, six others operating. Bridge contract completed, other construction at low employment level. Transients increase over year ago. Agricultural employment down, price level discourages new hiring. Claim volume about even with 1952.

HAYRE, Chinook, Harlem—(156 jobseekers; 143 men, 13 women) Seasonal layoffs in construction and railroad work during December are being supplemented by releases from holiday trade employment. Situation is normal for the winter period.

Seasonal Employment Declines Rapidly

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Men Applicants Predominate

More men were seeking jobs at the close of December than a year before, 6,488 to 6,107, while the number of women applicants rose only from 1,410 to 1,444. This contrasts with last August's low level of the reserve labor supply, when there were 1,270 men and 800 women in the applicant files. Seasonal employment of men fluctuates to a much greater degree than that of women.

will continue until in March. Slight increase in farm demand for livestock feeders expected as severe weather is encountered but not enough to turn the tide of unemployment downward.

HELENA, Canyon Ferry, White Sulphur Springs, Townsend, Boulder, Garrison—(436 jobseekers; 354 men, 82 women) Light labor demand characterized December, except for sales clerks and postal workers. Last major construction layoff occurred Christmas, as pipeline construction crews were reduced. Work continues on two big buildings, telephone and high school, with prospect of moderate crews through winter. Canyon Ferry using 40 on power house, 6 on dam, all to be complete by June. Smelter idled one furnace, releasing 40 men, brickyard down to 8, from 30. Demand for stenographers unfilled.

KALISPELL, Hungry Horse, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,073 jobseekers; 950 men, 123 women) Unemployment level about 400 below a year ago as most of construction men drawn into area for building Hungry Horse dam have filtered out of the local labor market. Layoff in December heavy, but more still ahead, including further timber crew reductions and layoff of holiday season clerks in trade. Aluminum plant now at 400 employment, down from 600 earlier; about 100 carpenters released Christmas; heavy construction continues at top level. Christmas tree industry released several hundred in December, mostly self employed or temporary workers.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(189 jobseekers; 152 men, 37 women) Further layoffs of building constructors occurred during December, most other outside work curtailed for the season. Slight increase in trade employment for holidays, will be followed by corresponding reductions by New Year. No new projects in sight to affect employment before spring.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(266 jobseekers; 199 men, 67 women) Construction and other outside work at virtual standstill, in line with seasonal experience. Small crews still operating on new hospital, school, and remodeling business building. Two new housing projects are in sight, one about to
(Continued on Page Three)

SEVEN YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1947	127.8	127.6	128.6	130.6	134.8	138.0	142.0	142.0	141.0	141.6	141.2	141.7	136.4
1948	131.4	131.0	133.2	137.1	140.6	145.8	148.9	150.3	151.4	149.6	149.4	147.7	143.4
1949	137.1	137.5	137.7	144.0	147.3	151.0	150.0	150.1	149.8	138.2	146.1	143.3	145.0
1950	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951	141.9	139.1	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	151.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	140.5	140.8	143.0	149.7	155.0	159.9	161.1	162.7	163.3	159.6	156.6	157.1	154.1
1953	150.0	148.1	149.2	151.8	155.8	160.1	161.6	162.9	163.1	161.6	158.8	157.4	156.7

Employment Dips Slightly But Surpasses Year Ago

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than stable, on the average, with the corresponding months of the previous year.

Annual Gains in Four Industries

December estimates indicate employment gains in the annual employment picture over December, 1952, of 300 in mining, 300 in contract construction, 200 in finance, insurance and real estate, and 1,000 in industrial services. This last item includes repair shops and hand trades, amusement and recreation, medical and law offices, and other service enterprises. Offsetting losses were shown in employment by manufacturing industries, 600, another 600 in wholesale and retail trade, 200 in government, and 100 in transportation and utilities; leaving a net gain of 300.

Along the Hiring Line—

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start and second in final plan stage. Contract for a flood control project will be let in early spring. Construction of delayed bridge will resume about April. No railroad demand except for machinists and boilermakers.

MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Forsyth, Colstrip, Terry—(269 jobseekers: 237 men, 32 women; 46 men and 9 women over 50) No construction in progress in this area, and none in immediate prospect. Railroad crews are at a minimum and most siemograph crews have finished and left for other oil prospect area. Labor demand in December much below that of year ago and supply is about doubled. Transients are numerous, mostly from the east.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior, Thompson Falls—(1,132 jobseekers: 920 men, 212 women; 289 men and 51 women over 45) Usual seasonal increase in unemployment, increase of 466 over November. Principal saw mills have cut off one shift, smaller outfits reduced forces, principally due to weakened market for lumber. Construction employment has held up well, concrete pouring and outside work on a new fire hall and creamery addition continues. Christmas hiring by stores was active, mostly of women. Corresponding layoffs will occur in early January.

POLSON, Hot Springs—(297 jobseekers: 273 men, 24 women) Three road crews operating on heavy construction up to first of year, one will shut down soon until spring. Nearly all workers on the projects were brought in by contractors. Kerr dam power unit installation is employing fewer men. Labor demand almost vanished in December, with a steadily mounting supply of labor. No substantial hiring prospects until spring.

SHELBY, Chester, Conrad, Tiber Dam—(95 jobseekers: 81 men, 14 women) Construction contractors have closed down or reduced crews, with no recovery in sight before spring. The Tiber dam project is down to skeleton force of 100 or less. Many of their workers are from outside points and have left for the winter. Oilfield work is on fairly stable level, not many releases from there. Employment for holiday trade was not up to expectations. Compensation claims are increased from a year ago, and unemployment is substantially greater than at the end of 1952.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(118 jobseekers; 110 men, 8 women; 19 men and 2 women over 45) Most construction projects reached completion in December, no new assignments. Surplus of equipment operators, carpenters and labor. Two schools under construction will continue inside work with reduced forces through the winter.

SIDNEY—(119 jobseekers; 105 men, 14 women; 33 men and 6 women over 45) Shutdown in nearly all outside work and at the sugar refinery. Construction is at a minimum and for the first time since last May building trade workers are available. Hiring for the holidays failed to dent the labor supply. Farm employment lighter than normal.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Dec. 1953 (2)	Nov. 1953 (3)	Dec. 1952	Nov. 53 to Dec. 53	Dec. 52 to Dec. 53
NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES...	157,400	158,800	157,100	—1,400	300
Manufacturing	18,300	19,600	18,900	—1,300	— 600
Durable goods.....	10,400	11,100	11,200	— 700	— 800
Lumber and timber products.....	5,500	6,100	6,600	— 600	—1,100
Primary metals.....	3,600	3,600	3,600	0	0
Other (4).....	1,300	1,400	1,000	— 100	300
Nondurable goods.....	7,900	8,500	7,700	— 600	200
Food and kindred products.....	4,400	5,100	4,400	— 700	0
Printing and publishing.....	1,700	1,600	1,500	100	200
Other (5).....	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Mining	12,300	12,000	12,000	300	300
Metal mining.....	8,900	8,600	8,800	300	100
Bituminous and soft coal mining.....	500	500	600	0	— 100
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2,300	2,400	2,100	— 100	200
Quarrying and nonmetallic mining.....	600	500	500	100	100
Contract construction	9,000	10,400	8,700	—1,400	300
Contractors, building construction.....	3,300	3,900	3,700	— 600	— 400
Contractors, other than building.....	2,500	3,200	2,000	— 700	500
Contractors, special trade.....	3,200	3,300	3,000	— 100	200
Transportation and utilities	22,900	23,100	23,000	— 200	— 100
Interstate railroads.....	13,500	13,800	13,800	— 300	— 300
Transportation except railroads.....	3,800	3,700	3,800	100	0
Utilities including communication.....	5,600	5,600	5,400	0	200
Trade	40,500	40,400	41,100	100	— 600
Wholesale trade.....	8,000	8,300	8,700	— 300	— 700
Retail trade.....	32,500	32,100	32,400	400	100
General merchandise and apparel.....	6,900	6,600	7,400	300	— 500
Food stores.....	4,600	4,600	4,300	0	300
Eating and drinking establishments.....	7,200	7,200	7,700	0	— 500
Automotive and filling stations.....	6,200	6,200	5,800	0	400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	7,600	7,500	7,200	100	400
Finance, insurance and real estate	5,000	5,000	4,800	0	200
Services and miscellaneous	19,800	19,600	18,800	200	1,000
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	2,800	2,800	2,700	0	100
Personal services.....	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Other (6).....	14,600	14,400	13,700	200	900
Government	29,600	28,700	29,800	900	— 200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	14,600	14,400	14,400	200	200
Selected Industries					
Manufacturing.....	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0
Transportation and utilities.....	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
Trade.....	5,800	5,700	5,700	100	100
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	3,400	3,300	3,300	100	100

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from sample of 478 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on returns from 897 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, petroleum, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN DECEMBER 1953, AND DECEMBER, 1952

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U. I. Claims Wk. 1-8	
	Dec. 1953		Dec. 1952		Dec. 1953		Dec. 1952		December, 1953				December, 1952				1953	1952
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda	65	28	114	33	128	39	118	41	73	5	78	37	50	8	58	13	150	111
*Billings	637	220	794	208	910	337	981	362	222	49	271	110	224	17	241	84	921	808
Bozeman	141	73	248	69	235	95	167	59	202	26	228	76	219	25	244	63	283	152
Butte	371	39	242	29	688	73	468	47	182	0	182	40	182	0	182	27	683	477
Cut Bank	88	50	95	38	148	63	138	47	11	5	16	8	25	3	28	11	113	95
Dillon	98	48	52	24	61	24	21	10	57	29	86	20	39	23	62	13	69	44
*Glasgow	192	47	93	28	287	97	181	50	55	21	76	20	74	6	80	17	164	97
Glendive	136	25	72	18	71	33	45	7	107	23	130	38	63	7	70	16	95	62
*Great Falls	559	171	307	130	1,039	391	601	206	193	52	245	99	164	15	179	64	955	774
Hamilton	56	19	26	8	215	71	208	54	34	3	37	10	18	1	19	6	243	220
Havre	146	52	150	50	156	75	221	77	103	12	115	48	99	3	102	31	141	106
Helena	182	103	289	113	436	181	426	153	124	24	148	75	150	11	161	61	404	441
*Kalispell	446	156	289	88	1,073	415	1,663	524	79	2	81	57	37	1	38	13	1,409	1,440
Lewistown	112	34	120	34	189	73	142	43	16	12	28	8	23	3	26	8	197	169
Livingston	111	31	104	22	266	74	238	66	56	16	72	27	54	15	69	26	318	223
*Miles City	182	79	85	31	269	113	118	39	30	25	55	23	51	34	85	28	289	172
*Missoula	314	100	277	91	1,132	421	662	213	238	7	245	79	116	12	128	36	879	677
*Polson	108	34	30	22	297	97	335	91	9	1	10	5	6	1	7	1	453	395
Shelby	84	19	59	18	95	34	81	20	35	4	39	15	25	1	26	9	124	77
Sidney	97	18	111	32	119	26	139	33	49	16	65	14	71	9	80	19	103	86
Wolf Point	106	37	84	25	118	54	88	36	26	14	40	12	33	4	37	11	132	131
Closed Offices	-	-	218	69	-	-	476	161	-	-	-	-	74	25	99	40	-	510
TOTALS.....	4,231	1,384	3,909	1,180	7,932	2,786	7,517	2,339	1,901	346	2,247	821	1,797	224	2,021	597	8,125	7,267

*Office Area Consolidations—Malta with Glasgow; Fort Benton with Great Falls; Libby with Kalispell; Forsyth with Miles City and Billings; Thompson Falls with Missoula and Polson.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. (1) 1953	Nov. (2) 1953	Dec. 1952	Dec. (1) 1953	Nov. (2) 1953	Dec. 1952	Dec. (1) 1953	Nov. (2) 1953	Dec. 1952
All Manufacturing	\$79.76	\$79.35	\$77.91	41.0	41.2	40.6	1.94	1.92	1.92
Durable goods	82.06	81.30	81.86	41.1	40.5	41.5	2.00	2.01	1.97
Primary metals	90.82	90.80	86.76	45.2	45.1	45.5	2.01	2.01	1.91
Nondurable goods	76.41	76.65	71.46	41.0	42.3	39.2	1.86	1.81	1.82
Food and kindred products	67.63	68.20	59.34	43.1	44.3	39.0	1.57	1.54	1.52
All Mining	93.10	92.50	90.51	42.5	41.7	41.8	2.19	2.22	2.17
Metal mining	92.02	92.02	91.93	42.6	42.6	42.8	2.16	2.16	2.15
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	74.86	74.54	72.71	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation (except railrds.)	86.82	86.41	86.21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utilities and communication	69.03	68.94	65.67	38.9	38.8	39.6	1.78	1.78	1.66

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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